

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for reducing datastream transmission bandwidth requirements, comprising:

in response to determining if that an image data structure is present in a datastream[[:]], extracting said image data structure from said datastream in response to such said determination;

dividing said image data structure into one or more subregions;

associating a corresponding identifier with ~~each a first selected one~~ of said one or more subregions;

in response to determining if that said first selected one of said one or more subregions any subregion is substantially identical to a second selected one of said one or more subregions a previous subregion;

~~replacing each subregion which is substantially identical to a previous subregion said second selected one of said one or more subregions with the said corresponding identifier of said first selected one of said one or more subregions said previous subregion;~~

reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating a packaged image data, which includes a decoding table comprising only selected said first selected one of said one or more subregions and said corresponding identifier of said first selected one of said one or more subregions in place of identifiers for substantially identical said second selected one of said one or more subregions; [[and]]

inserting said packaged image into the said data stream; and

transmitting said modified data stream and a decoding table correlating corresponding identifier and transmitted subregions where transmission band width requests are reduced.

2. (original) A method of decoding a packaged image, comprising:
  - determining whether a packaged image is present in a datastream;
  - responsive to determining that a packaged image is present in a datastream, extracting the packaged image;
  - separating the packaged image into an image data structure and a decoding table containing one or more references and one or more corresponding identifiers; and
  - modifying the image data structure to replace any identifiers present in the image data structure with corresponding references.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dividing step further comprises analyzing an image to determine the most effective size of a subregion.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating step further comprises retaining a symbol dictionary of references and identifiers employed in the determining step of processing a previously analyzed image data structure.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the retaining step further comprises maintaining descriptive statistics on the frequency with which references stored in the symbol dictionary are employed and selectively removing the references when the frequency of their occurrence falls.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating step further comprises storing a preloaded set of references on a sending machine and omitting preloaded references from the decoding table.
7. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the modifying step further comprises replacing identifiers with references from a preloaded decoding table.

8. (original) A method of reducing datastream transmission bandwidth, comprising:

examining a datastream for the presence of one or more image data items;

responsive to the presence of one or more image data items, examining the one or more image data items for the presence of one or more repeated visual data elements; and

responsive to the presence of one or more repeated visual data elements, recoding the datastream with one or more replacement markers inserted to replace the one or more repeated visual data elements and with a decoding table for translating the one or more replacement markers during decoding.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for reducing datastream transmission bandwidth requirements, comprising:

means for in response to determining if that an image data structure is present in a datastream[[;]],

[[means for]] extracting said image data structure from said datastream ~~in response to such determination;~~

means for dividing said image data structure into one or more subregions;

means for associating a corresponding identifier with ~~each a first selected one~~ of said one or more subregions;

means for in response to determining if that said first selected one of said one or more subregions any subregion is substantially identical to a second selected one of said one or more subregions a previous subregion;

means for replacing ~~each subregion which is substantially identical to a previous subregion~~ ~~said second selected one of said one or more subregions~~ with ~~the~~said corresponding identifier of said first selected one of said one or more subregions ~~said previous subregion;~~

means for reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating a packaged image data, which includes a decoding table comprising only selected said first selected one of said one or more subregions and said corresponding identifier of said first selected one of said one or more subregions in place of identifiers for substantially identical said second selected one of said one or more subregions; [and]]

inserting said packaged image into the said data stream; and

means for transmitting said modified data stream ~~and decoding table correlating corresponding identifier and transmitted subregions where transmission bandwidth requests are reduced.~~

10. (original) An apparatus for decoding a packaged image, comprising:
  - means for determining whether a packaged image is present in a datastream;
  - means for, responsive to determining that a packaged image is present in a datastream, extracting the packaged image;
  - means for separating the packaged image into an image data structure and a decoding table containing one or more references and one or more corresponding identifiers; and
  - means for modifying the image data structure to replace any identifiers present in the image data structure with corresponding references.
11. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the dividing means further comprises means for analyzing an image to determine the most effective size of a subregion.
12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the storing reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating means further comprises means for retaining a symbol dictionary of references and identifiers employed by the determining means in processing a previously analyzed image data structure.
13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the retaining means further comprises means for maintaining descriptive statistics on the frequency with which references stored in the symbol dictionary are employed and selectively removing the references when the frequency of their occurrence falls.
14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the storing reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating means further comprises means for storing a preloaded set of references on a sending machine and omitting preloaded references from the decoding table.
15. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the modifying means further comprises means for replacing identifiers with references from a preloaded decoding table.

16. (original) An apparatus for reducing datastream transmission bandwidth, comprising:  
means for examining a datastream for the presence of one or more image data items;  
means for, responsive to the presence of one or more image data items, examining the  
one or more image data items for the presence of one or more repeated visual data elements; and  
means for, responsive to the presence of one or more repeated visual data elements,  
recoding the datastream with one or more replacement markers inserted to replace the one or  
more repeated visual data elements and with a decoding table for translating the one or more  
replacement markers during decoding.

17. (currently amended) A computer program product in a computer usable medium for reducing datastream transmission bandwidth requirements, comprising:

a computer usable medium;

instructions on the computer usable medium for, in response to determining if that an image data structure is present in a datastream[[;]].

[[instructions on the computer usable medium for]] extracting said image data structure from said datastream in response to such determination;

instructions on the computer usable medium for dividing said image data structure into one or more subregions;

instructions on the computer usable medium for associating a corresponding identifier with each a first selected one of said one or more subregions;

instructions on the computer usable medium for, in response to determining if that said first selected one of said one or more subregions any subregion is substantially identical to a second selected one of said one or more subregions a previous subregion;

instructions on the computer usable medium for replacing each subregion which is substantially identical to a previous subregion said second selected one of said one or more subregions with the said corresponding identifier of said first selected one of said one or more subregions said previous subregion;

instructions on the computer usable medium for reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating a packaged image data, which includes a decoding table comprising only selected said first selected one of said one or more subregions and said corresponding identifier of said first selected one of said one or more subregions in place of identifiers for substantially identical said second selected one of said one or more subregions; and

inserting said packaged image into the said data stream; and

instructions on the computer usable medium for transmitting said modified data stream and a decoding table correlating corresponding identifier and transmitted subregions where transmission band width requests are reduced.

18. (currently amended) A computer program product in a computer usable medium for decoding a packaged image, comprising:

a computer usable medium;

instructions on the computer usable medium for determining whether a packaged image is present in a datastream;

instructions on the computer usable medium for, responsive to determining that a packaged image is present in a datastream, extracting the packaged image;

instructions on the computer usable medium for separating the packaged image into an image data structure and a decoding table containing one or more references and one or more corresponding identifiers; and

instructions on the computer usable medium for modifying the image data structure to replace any identifiers present in the image data structure with corresponding references.

19. (original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the instructions for dividing further comprise instructions on the computer usable medium for analyzing an image to determine the most effective size of a subregion.

20. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the instructions for storing reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating a packaged image further comprise instructions on the computer usable medium for retaining a symbol dictionary of references and identifiers employed in the determining step of processing a previously analyzed image data structure.

21. (original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the instructions for retaining further comprise instructions on the computer usable medium for maintaining descriptive statistics on the frequency with which references stored in the symbol dictionary are employed and selectively removing the references when the frequency of their occurrence falls.

22. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the instructions for storing reducing transmission bandwidth requirements by generating a packaged image further

comprise instructions on the computer usable medium for storing a preloaded set of references on a sending machine and omitting preloaded references from the decoding table.

23. (original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the instructions for modifying further comprise instructions on the computer usable medium for replacing identifiers with references from a preloaded decoding table.

24. (currently amended) A computer program product in a computer usable medium for reducing datastream transmission bandwidth, comprising:

a computer usable medium;

instructions on the computer usable medium for examining a datastream for the presence of one or more image data items;

instructions on the computer usable medium for, responsive to the presence of one or more image data items, examining the one or more image data items for the presence of one or more repeated visual data elements; and

instructions on the computer usable medium for responsive to the presence of one or more repeated visual data elements, recoding the datastream with one or more replacement markers inserted to replace the one or more repeated visual data elements and with a decoding table for translating the one or more replacement markers during decoding.

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